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Alberta

annual report April 1, 1972 March 31, 1973

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

Alberta
LANDS AND FORESTS

Alberta. Fish + Wildlife Division. Annu
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FISH AND WILDLIFE

REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR

G. R. KERR

The year 1972-73 should be noted as a time during which new directions were taken by the Division.

Fish and wildlife habitat management in the form of both habitat protection and habitat improvement and development, marked a new direction to management away from soley conservative harvesting of resource to positive, planned resource production.

The decision was reached late in the year to implement the "Buck for Wildlife" program, funded by new revenue from a one dollar increase in fees charged to each licensed hunter and fisherman. Actual implementation of the program is planned to occur in 1973-74 but substantial planning was accomplished in the balance of 1972-73.

An identifiable fish and wildlife habitat protection effort was implemented through the acquisition of new staff. A substantial advance was made in habitat inventory and agency coordination in land use and land use planning.

The concept of problem animal management as opposed to pest animal control was fully adopted by both wildlife and enforcement programs, with a marked increase in efforts and appraisals of programs on waterfowl, bears, wolves and elk in conflict with mans' interests.

The major accomplishment of the Fisheries Branch aside from areas of habitat concern was the construction and early stage operation of the new Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery and Rearing Station in Calgary. This facility is considered to be the most technically advanced in Canada and will allow recreation fish stocking programs to better accommodate demand.

Resource inventory and appraisal programs in relation to major industrial developments, particularly in relation to the Athabasca Tar Sands development were conducted.

Resource law supervision advanced substantially by the incorporation of much increased aircraft use, both fixed wing and helicopter. Aircraft surveillance of illegal night hunting proved most encouraging. The two-way radio equipping of field vehicles proved to be a valuable tool. An officer staff increase of six officers allowed for increased field staff flexibility and coverage on peak activity periods.

The provincial Hunter Training — Conservation programs were transferred to the Division in July of 1972. Appraisals of the program were made and new directions and emphasis determined for coming years.

GAME

COMPARISON OF THE NUMBER OF WILDLIFE CERTIFICATES & GAME LICENCES ISSUED

TABLE 1

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Wildlife Certificates	117,408	128,708	132,451	131,837
Bird Game Licences				
Resident	62,969	78,325	79,653	77,296
Non-Resident (Canadian)	2,848	4,681	4,881	5,106
Non-Resident (Alien)	1,272	1,056	994	1,096
Big Game Licences				
Resident Black Bear	1,273	1,015	2,805	3,274
Resident Caribou	655	461	276	434
Resident Elk	27,449	25,192	25,565	17,814
Resident 416-418 Elk	420	419	—	281
Resident Goat	59	—	—	75
Resident Grizzly Bear	204	201	162	219
Resident Moose	44,748	43,337	43,911	40,554
Resident Moose, Elk or Deer (M-E-D)	—	3,804	3,790	—
Resident Moose — Zone One	4,868	6,241	7,336	—
Resident Mule Deer	41,348	29,317	28,631	32,266
Resident Sheep	1,061	989	1,073	1,008
Resident Whitetail Deer	43,254	37,146	38,298	41,891

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Resident Cougar	—	—	7	15
Resident Antelope	—	798	1,001	1,102
Resident Wainwright Deer	390	420	427	494
Resident Non-Trophy Sheep	371	314	310	329
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Black Bear	54	130	317	366
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Caribou	—	46	26	37
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Cougar	—	—	—	3
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Elk	—	349	292	353
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Grizzly Bear	—	10	6	9
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Moose	—	277	277	4,107
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Moose — Zone One	—	3,747	4,385	—
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Mule Deer	—	83	120	155
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Sheep	—	216	199	123
Non-Resident & Non-Resident Alien Whitetail Deer	309	21	25	37
Non-Resident (Alien)	647	—	—	—
Non-Resident & Non-Resident,Special	3,321	—	—	—
Non-Resident (Canadian)	47	3	9	5
Duplicate	—	364	553	596

WILDLIFE CERTIFICATES & GAME LICENCES

1972-73 SEASON

TABLE 2

	NUMBER	FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT
Wildlife Certificates	131,837	3.00	395,511.00
Resident Bird Game Licences	77,296	2.50	193,240.00
Non-Res. Canadian Bird Game Licences	5,106	5.00	25,530.00
Non-Res. Alien Bird Game Licences	1,096	50.00	54,800.00
Resident Black Bear	3,274	5.00	16,370.00
Resident Caribou Licences	434	10.00	4,340.00
Resident Cougar Licences	15	10.00	150.00
Resident Elk Licences	17,814	5.00	89,070.00
Resident Grizzly Bear Licences	219	10.00	2,190.00
Resident Moose Licences	40,554	5.00	202,770.00
Resident Mule Deer Licences	32,266	5.00	161,330.00
Resident Sheep Licences	1,088	10.00	10,880.00
Resident Whitetail Deer Licences	41,891	3.00	125,673.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Black Bear Licences	366	25.00	9,150.00

	NUMBER	FEE	TOTAL AMOUNT
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Caribou Licences	37	100.00	3,700.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Cougar Licences	3	75.00	225.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Elk Licences	353	100.00	35,300.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Grizzly Bear Licences	9	200.00	1,800.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Moose Licences	4,107	100.00	410,700.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Mule Deer Licences	155	50.00	7,750.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Sheep Licences	123	200.00	24,600.00
Non-Res. & Non-Res. Alien Whitetail Deer Licences	37	50.00	1,850.00
Non-Res. (Canadian) Special Big Game Licences	5	75.00	375.00
Special Guiding Authorities	5	25.00	125.00
Duplicate Licences	596	2.00	1,192.00
Antelope Licences	1,102	10.00	11,020.00
S416-418 Elk Licences	281	5.00	1,405.00
Goat Licences	75	10.00	750.00
Non-Trophy Sheep Licences	329	5.00	1,645.00
Wainwright Deer Licences	494	5.00	2,470.00
Archery Licences	344	3.00	1,032.00
Guides Licences (Class A)	200	50.00	10,000.00
Guides Licences (Class B)	577	25.00	14,425.00
Game Bird Farm Licences (Class A)	11	25.00	275.00
Game Bird Farm Licences (Class B)	29	10.00	290.00
Game Bird Farm Licences (Class C)	5	5.00	25.00
Resident Trappers Licences	5,834	3.00	17,502.00
Outfitters Licences	5	100.00	500.00
Taxidermist Licences	124	5.00	620.00
Dog Trainers Licences	25	various	265.00
Permits to Collect	39	free	
Permits to Collect	9	various	2,690.00
Game Farm Licences (Big Game)	3	100.00	300.00
Pheasant Shooting Ground Licences	4	100.00	400.00
Restricted Big Game Licences	2	50.00	100.00
Photographic Big Game Farm Licences	2	100.00	200.00

ALBERTA FUR PRODUCTION SEASON 1972/73

(WILD FUR)

	TOTAL NUMBER OF PELTS	AVERAGE VALUE OF PELTS	TOTAL VALUE OF PELTS
BADGER	2,562	16.00	40,992.00
BEAR	448	88.37	39,589.76
BEAVER	79,439	20.61	1,637,237.79
BOBCAT	17	37.98	645.66
COYOTE	34,413	26.49	911,600.37
ERMINE	36,791	1.64	60,337.24
FISHER	3,146	35.33	111,148.18

	TOTAL NUMBER OF PELTS	AVERAGE VALUE OF PELTS	TOTAL VALUE OF PELTS
FOX, BLUE	14	19.45	272.30
FOX, CROSS	383	49.08	18,797.64
FOX, RED	1,376	27.74	38,170.24
FOX, SILVER	22	25.40	558.80
FOX, WHITE	37	34.03	1,259.11
LYNX	18,084	90.65	1,639,314.60
MARTEN	4,290	17.27	74,088.30
MINK	13,632	20.28	276,456.96
MUSKRAT	266,273	2.35	625,741.55
OTTER	313	41.41	12,961.33
RABBITS, JACK	746	.28	208.88
RACCOON	17	12.34	209.78
SKUNK	13	.66	8.58
SQUIRREL	157,368	1.15	180,973.20
WOLF, TIMBER	880	76.64	67,443.20
WOLVERINE	93	91.08	8,470.44

5,746,425±

SALE OF FURS

TABLE 4

Amount realized from the sale of furs during the period 1972-73 season			$ 3,848.22
Number of Registered Traplines	1,980		
Number of Trapline Renewals & Partnerships 1972/73 season	2,563	$10.00	$ 25,630.00

FUR DEALERS LICENCES, ETC.

Kind	Number	Amount
Resident Fur Dealer Licence to carry on business in a city and elsewhere than a city	110	1,100.00
Non-Resident Fur Dealers Licence to carry on business in the province	1	100.00
Resident Travelling Fur Purchasing Agents Licence	26	2,600.00
Furriers Licences	10	100.00
Tanners Licences	9	90.00

FUR TAX REVENUES

Amount Collected	$108,756.32

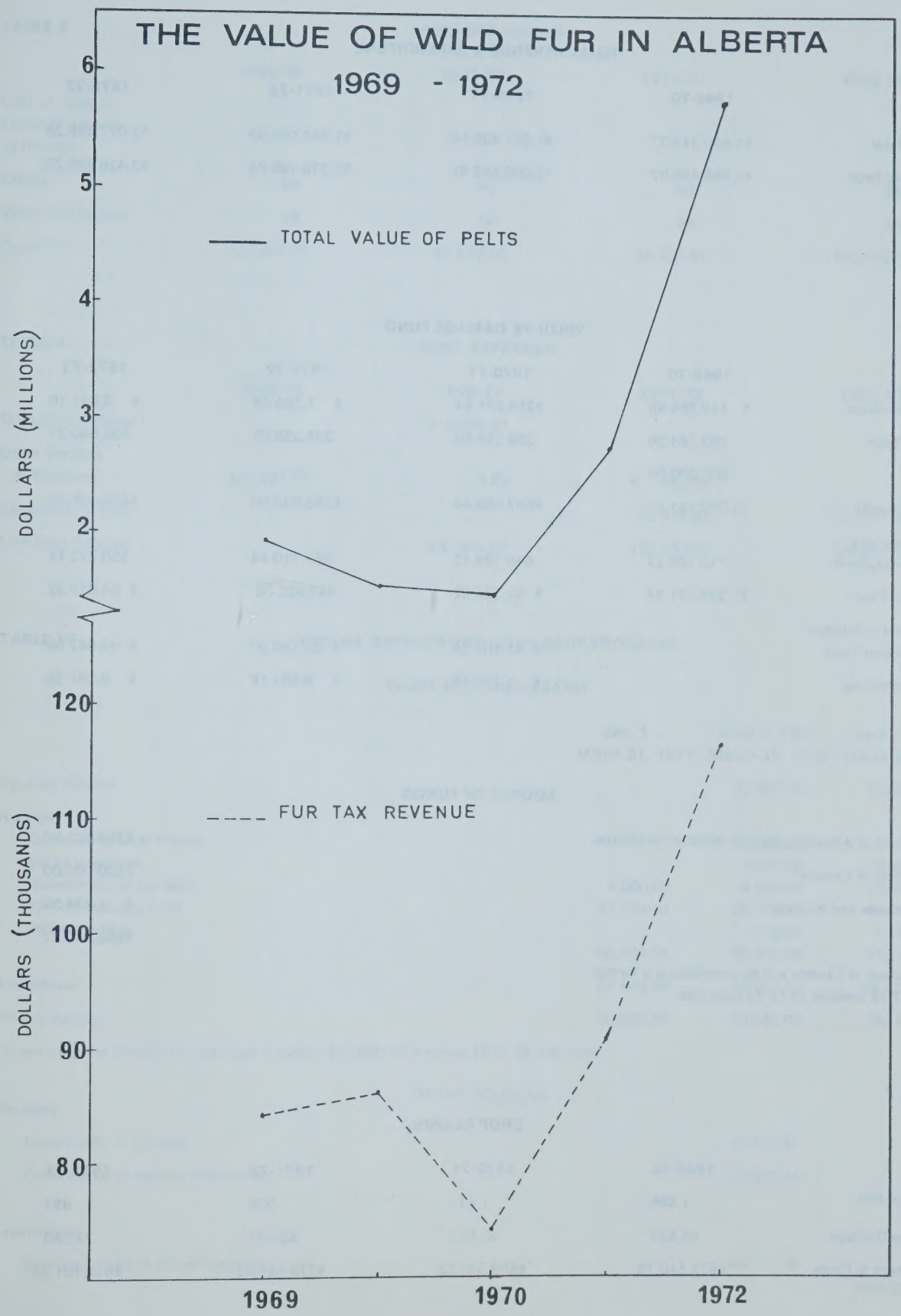

THE VALUE OF WILD FUR IN ALBERTA
1969 - 1972
TOTAL VALUE OF PELTS
FUR TAX REVENUE
DOLLARS (MILLIONS)
DOLLARS (THOUSANDS)
6
5
4
3
2
120
110
100
90
80
1969
1970
1972

TABLE 5

TOTAL REVENUE & EXPENDITURE

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Revenue Total	$1,680,343.37	$1,857,836.14	$1,946,169.03	$2,077,299.29
Expenditure Total	$1,885,496.97	$2,000,895.61	$2,379,489.93	$2,426,889.23

TABLE 6

WILDLIFE DAMAGE FUND

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Opening Balance	$ 119,356.85	$289,271.84	$ 1,294.48	$ 8,561.16
Revenue Total	283,084.26	398,326.60	398,338.02	595,840.27
Loan	600,000.00	—	—	—
Available Funds	$1,002,441.11	$687,598.44	$399,632.50	$604,401.43
Expenditure and Loan Repayment	713,169.27	645,199.42	351,710.44	550,372.11
Balance of Fund	$ 289,271.84	$ 42,399.02	$47,922.06	$ 54,029.32
Transferred to Wildlife Depredation Trust		$ 41,104.54	$ 39,360.90	$ 45,947.96
Funds Remaining		$ 1,294.48	$ 8,561.16	$ 8,081.36

SOURCE OF FUNDS

Government of Alberta — Sale of Wildlife Certificates	$394,401.00
Government of Canada*	$200,000.00
Miscellaneous and Interest	$ 1,439.27
	$595,840.27

*Government of Canada will be contributing a further $46,737.76 towards 1972-73 expenses.

TABLE 7

CROP CLAIMS

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Claims	1,485	1,431	906	997
Acreage Damage	65,627	52,662	52,441	74,560
Settlement & Costs	$672,510.78	$589,346.52	$315,559.62	$516,101.38

TABLE 8 LIVESTOCK CLAIMS

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Loss or injury to Livestock caused by Hunters				
Claims	68	45	43	39
Veterinary Claims	18	26	28	25
Costs	$12,931.34	$9,578.18	$9,306.42	$10,249.05

TABLE 9 MISC. EXPENSES

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Consulting Services		$ 8,606.81		
Other Services & Expenses	$27,727.15	6.83	$ 866.08	
Repayment of Loan			25,978.32	$24,021.68
Lure Crop Program		$37,661.08	$39,360.90	$45,947.96

TABLE 10 WILDLIFE DEPREDATION (LURE CROP PROGRAM)

TRUST ACCOUNT (6243A)

	Jan. 1 — March 31, 1971	April 1, 1971 March 31, 1972	April 1, 1972 March 31, 1973
Opening Balance	—	33,660.98	32,682.02
Receipts			
County of Grande Prairie		5,184.00	
Ducks Unlimited		4,000.00	4,000.00
Government of Canada*	4,000.00	4,000.00	13,447.14
Wildlife Damage Fund	41,104.54	39,360.90	45,947.96
Interest & Misc.		408.00	1,192.99
	45,104.54	86,613.88	97,270.11
Expenditure	11,443.56	53,931.86	49,122.42*
Closing Balance	33,660.98	32,682.02	48,147.69

*Government of Canada to contribute a further $10,400.39 towards 1972-73 expenses.

OTHER SOURCES

Receipts			
Government of Canada		21,414.71	
Government of Alberta (Vote 1835)		22,923.24	
			$44,337.95
Expenditure			
Salaries, Wages & Other Expenses		44,337.95	
			$44,337.95

TABLE 11

MISCELLANEOUS REVENUE

Year	Fisheries Miscellaneous	Fisheries Royalty	Fur Tax	Game Branch Miscellaneous	Total
1953/54	$ 128.72	$23,860.61	$ 90,982.58	$1,160.29	$116,132.20
54/55	415.31	27,181.00	92,150.68	562.86	120,309.85
55/56	782.59	23,341.48	124,907.31	2,157.23	151,188.61
56/57	423.30	25,462.86	81,796.11	1,032.10	108,714.37
57/58	1,034.21	22,898.15	84,973.05	1,185.63	110,091.04
58/59	1,719.03	24,757.58	72,412.38	2,446.21	101,335.20
59/60	2,087.16	34,286.42	78,307.77	2,166.97	116,848.32
60/61	4,337.94	46,890.16	78,437.40	2,354.75	132.020.25
61/62	809.59	23,836.75	84,449.87	3,467.91	117,564.12
62/63	4,125.74	15,496.11	90,822.07	5,350.45	115,794.37
63/64	3,338.97	14,794.42	87,731.71	4,976.82	110,841.92
64/65	259.77	9,054.69	104,299.36	4,762.19	118,376.01
65/66	888.10	14,165.32	85,208.64	3,130.46	103,392.52
66/67	409.92	15,232.36	72,730.28	3,658.12	92,030.68
67/68	224.78	14,439.74	78,798.35	6,318.50	99,781.37
68/69	1,700.68	13,698.29	90,264.30	3,912.73	109,576.00
69/70	810.97	12,533.15	76,872.32	2,596.66	92,813.10
70/71	533.21	22,352.79	86,350.53	2,403.61	111,640.14
71/72	1,049.48	12,194.18	79,549.08	4,477.31	97,270.05
72/73	878.52	15,095.62	109,080.89	5,571.74	130,626.77

TABLE 12

	GAME LICENCES		FISH LICENCES				
	Number Sold	Revenue	Number Sold	Revenue	Miscellaneous Revenue	Total Revenue	Total Expenditure
1957/58	118,323	$147,434.70	120,968	$ 457,969.92	110,091.04	715,495.66	522,483.82
58/59	129,167	156,487.20	148,057	523,435.05	101.335.20	781,257.45	568,302.88
59/60	135,243	162,681.70	140,914	516,806.78	116,848.32	796,336.80	687,531.01
60/61	146,645	167,932.05	172,631	631,920.81	132,020.25	931,873.11	806,236.43
61/62	125,280	247,821.45	155,174	585,801.15	117,564.12	951,186.72	808,278.26**
62/63	126,764	247,096.90	166,036	648,603.60	115,794.37	1,011,494.87	879,594.41**
63/64	134,462	262,348.60	181,521	658,141.09	110,841.92	1,031,331.61	912,420.21**
64/65	129,073	248,709.65	184,076	674,002.14	118,376.01	1,041,087.80	1,016,510.31**
65/66	127,194	246,739.95	189,320	685,188.68	103,392.52	1,035,321.15	1,117,719.07**
66/67	137,687	265,139.50	190,824	733,964.25	92,030.68	1,091,134.43	1,330,052.83
67/68	141,676	273,456.60	218,865	1,042,831.40	99,781.37	1,416,069.37	1,556,926.07**
68/69	143,062	433,982.90	241,879	1,164,015.41	109,576.00	1,707,574.31	1,646,200.51**
69/70	155,444	464,622.30	245,804	1,122,907 97	92,813.10	1,680,343.37	1,889,176.34**
70/71	151,205	457,379.60	246,030	1,288,816.40	111,640.14*	1,857,836.14	2,000,895.56**
71/72	162,480	488,041.80	253,773	1,360,857.18	97,270.05*	1,946,169.03	2,379,489.93**
72/73	178,222	526,769.70	239,062	1,419,902.82	130,626 77*	2,077,299.29	2,426,889.23**

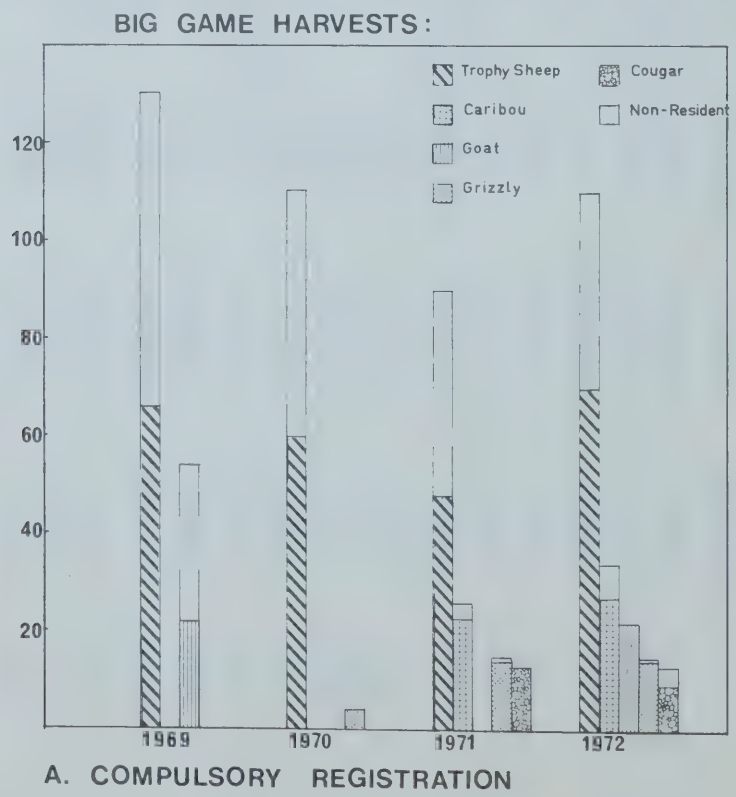
*See Miscellaneous Revenue Page

**1961/62 — 1972/73 includes Cost Sharing Programs and Predator control

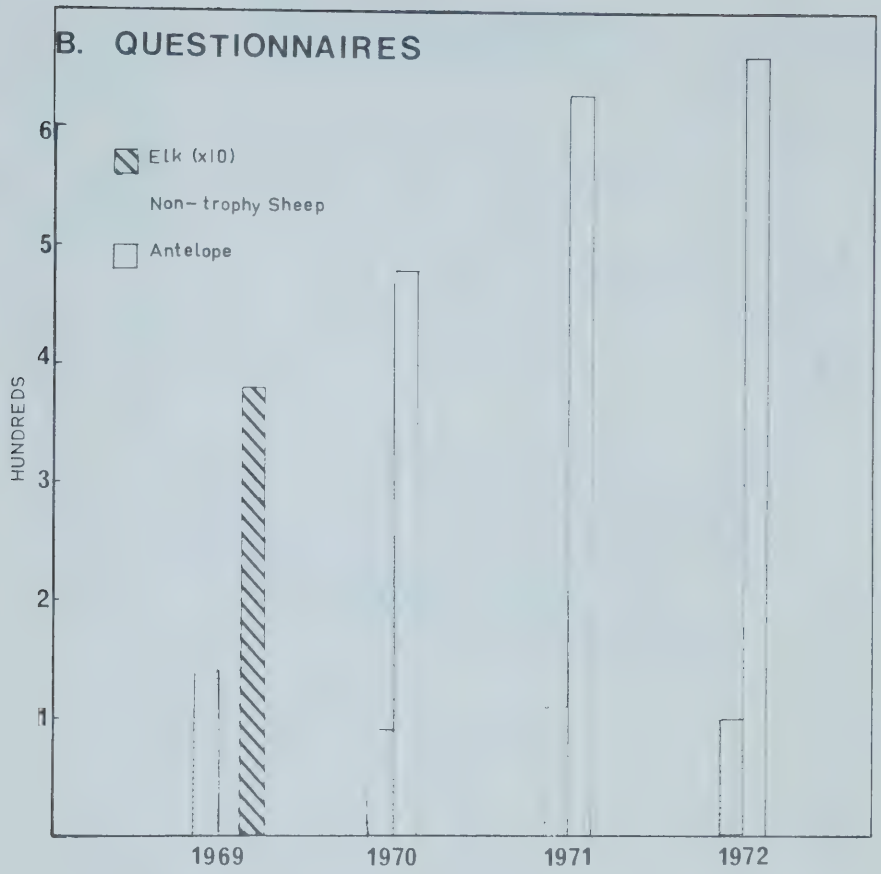
WILDLIFE

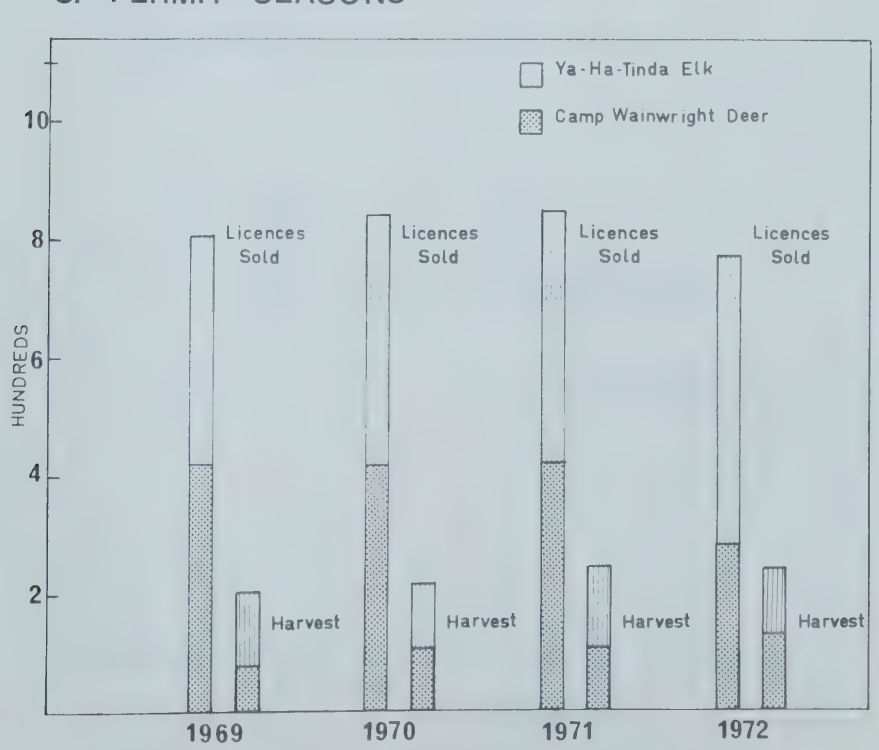
The Wildlife Section developed extensively last year in habitat protection and in problem wildlife management. Although documentation of upland bird, waterfowl and big game population phenomena and harvests continued to be a major part of the total program, the development of a survey team to conduct aerial surveys throughout the province and a problem wildlife team to examine the extent of agricultural — wildlife conflicts and provide solutions, have allowed the regional biologists to concentrate more effort on species management at a provincial level. The initial result of this orientation has been the assembling of a status report for each species and the preparation of a map indicating prime and winter ranges for ungulates and key production and staging areas for waterfowl. Major research and management projects carried out in 1972-73 are as follows (an asterik indicates that at least a progress report is available):

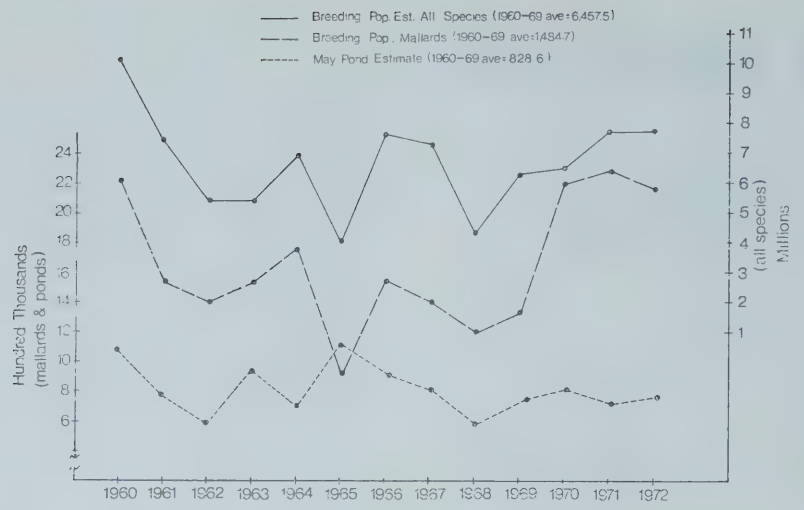
1. Location of critical big game winter ranges in Alberta.*
2. Limiting factors controlling the Ram Mountain Bighorn sheep herd.*
3. Reproductive success study of Canada geese at Dowling Lake.*
4. Canada geese banding and transplanting.
5. Limiting factors controlling the Camp Wainwright white-tailed deer herd.*
6. Winter feeding of bighorn sheep at the Ya-ha tinda.
7. Evaluation of spring release of hen pheasants.
8. Habitat development for pheasants at Millicent.
9. Evaluation of elk migrations in the Oldman River area.*
10. Limiting factors of elk populations on the Highwood.*
11. Evaluation of a hen pheasant season in the Scandia—Rainier area.*
12. Effect of deer hunting on a population at Pine Lake.*
13. Evaluation of an elk season on the Ya-ha Tinda.*
14. a) Evaluation of a lure crop program to prevent waterfowl depredation in the Grande Prairie area.*
    b) Evaluation of a lure crop program in the Beaverhill—Whitford Lake areas to prevent waterfowl depredation.
15. Evaluation of the beekeeper — black bear conflict and control effort.*
16. Evaluation of wolf damage control and extent of damage to livestock in the Peace River Region.*
17. Transplanting of goats from the Willmore Wilderness Park to the Brazeau Range.
18. Determination of antelope movements and winter ranges by tagging and field observations.*
19. A study of the population dynamics of black bear at Cold Lake.*
20. A study of a white-tailed deer population at Rochester without hunting (legal and illegal).*
21. An evaluation of moose hunting on a population in the Swan Hills area.*
22. An evaluation of rabies in mammals in Alberta with reference to the success of control measures and the status of the two important vectors, skunks and bats.*
23. The population dynamics of a beaver population in relation to trapping techniques.*
24. A study of the ecology of bighorn sheep at Sheep River in relation to nutrition and distribution of the winter range.*



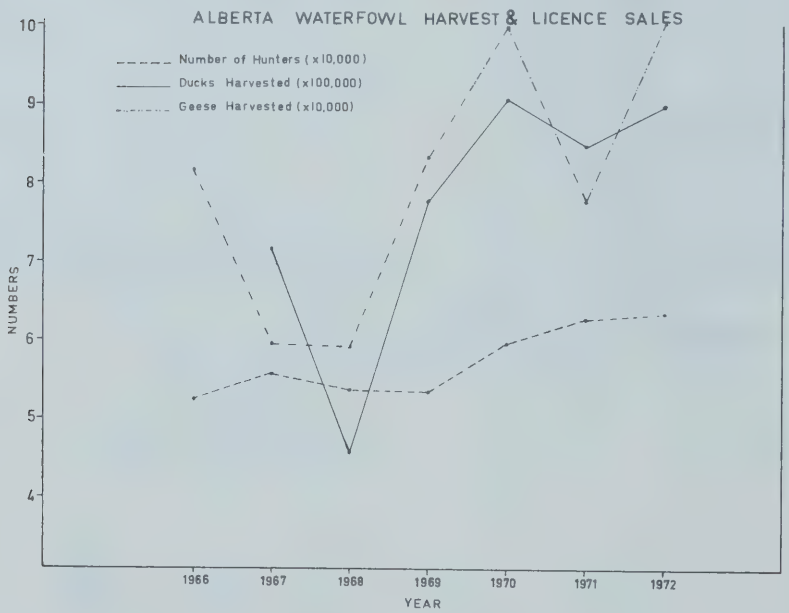
A. COMPULSORY REGISTRATION

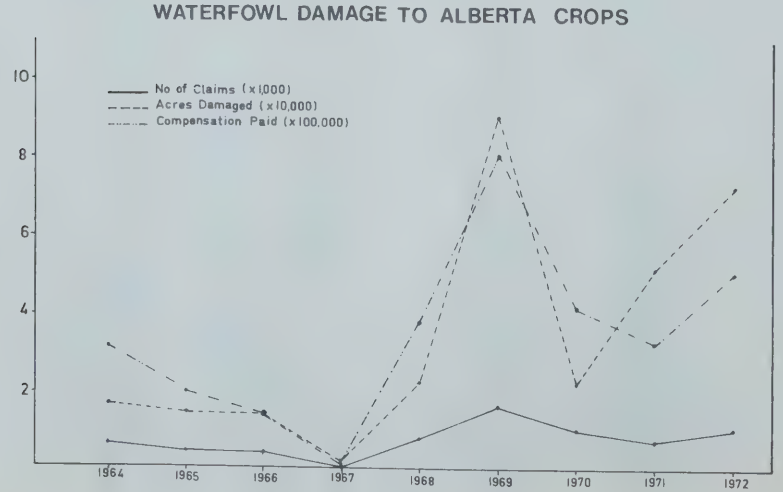

B. QUESTIONNAIRES
Elk (x10)
Non-trophy Sheep
Antelope
HUNDREDS
1
2
3
4
5
6
1969
1970
1971
1972


C. PERMIT SEASONS
Ya-Ha-Tinda Elk
Camp Wainwright Deer
HUNDREDS
2
4
6
8
10
Licences Sold
Harvest
1969
1970
1971
1972

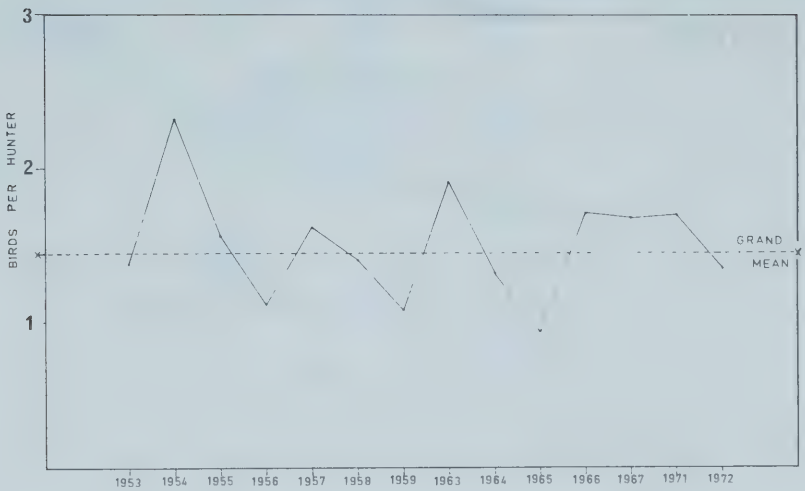

Breeding Pop. Est. All Species (1960–69 ave=6,457.5)
Breeding Pop., Mallards (1960–69 ave=1484.7)
May Pond Estimate (1960–69 ave=828.6)
Hundred Thousands (mallards & ponds)
(all species) Millions
1960 1961 1962 1963 1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972

Long term trend of duck breeding population estimates, and May pond estimates, from U.S.F. & W.S. aerial surveys in Alberta strata 26, 27 & 28 (ponds not adjusted for visibility).

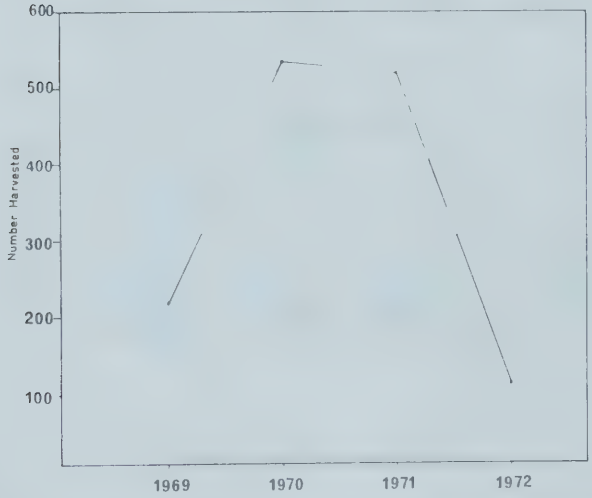


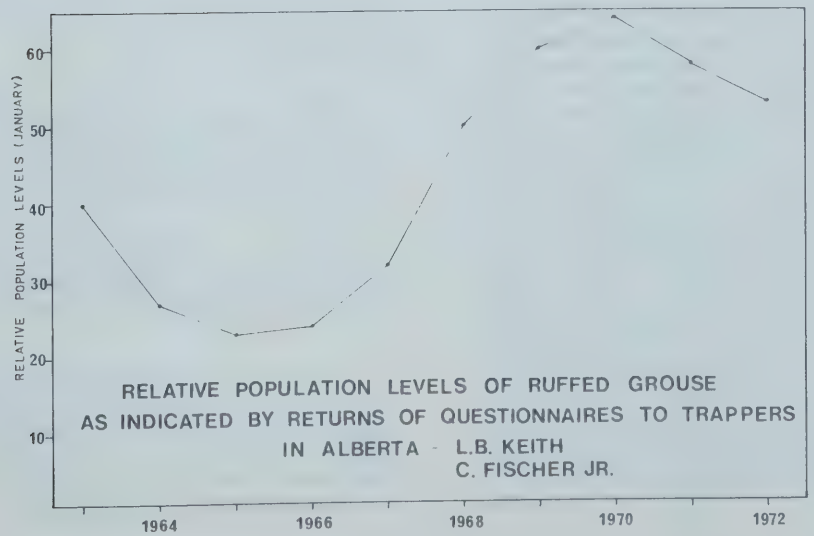

WATERFOWL DAMAGE TO ALBERTA CROPS
No of Claims (x1000)
Acres Damaged (x10,000)
Compensation Paid (x100,000)
1964 1965 1966 1967 1968 1969 1970 1971 1972

PHEASANTS: BIRDS PER HUNTER
AT CHECK STATIONS

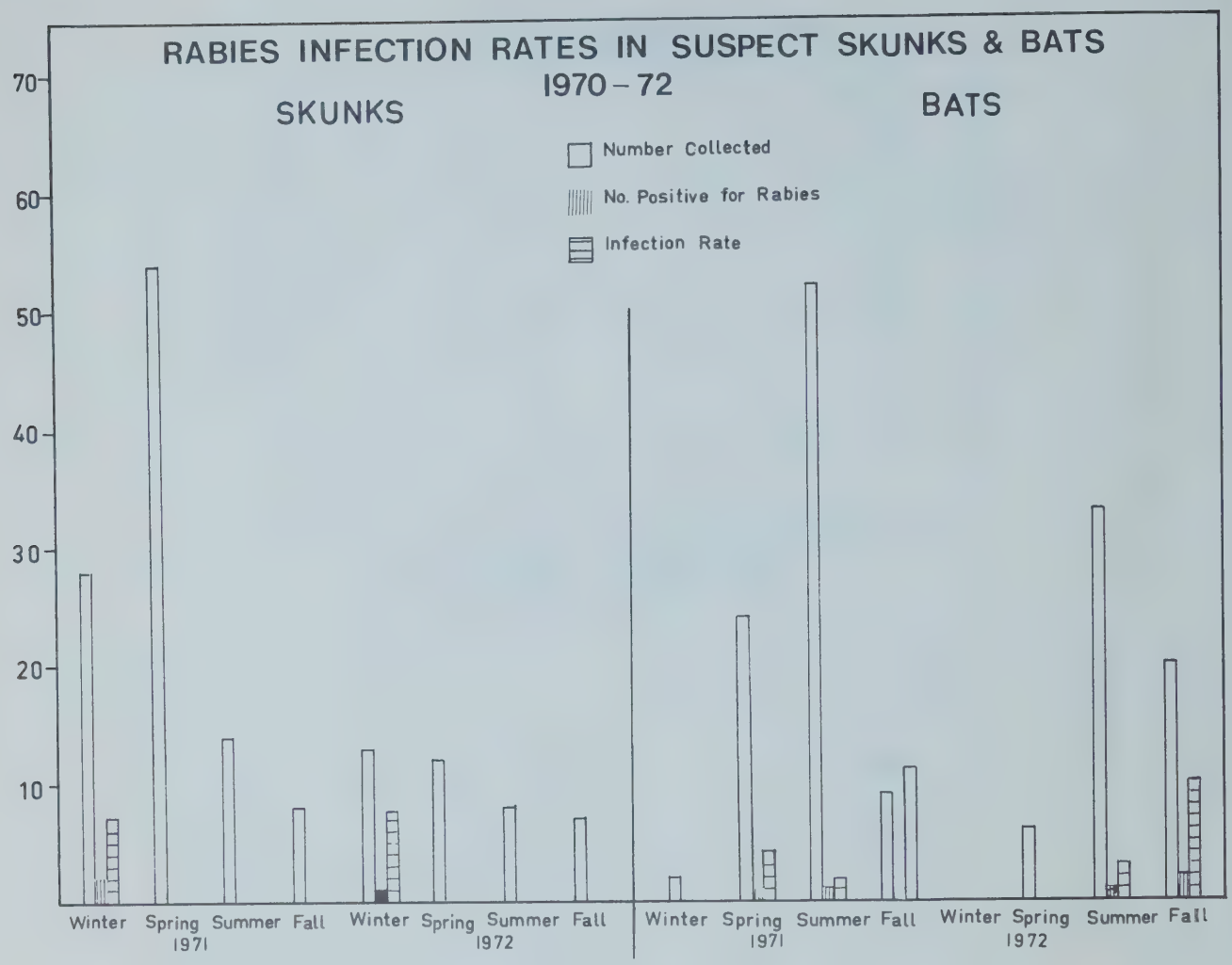


CAMP WAINWRIGHT SHARP-TAILED
GROUSE HARVEST





RELATIVE POPULATION LEVELS OF RUFFED GROUSE
AS INDICATED BY RETURNS OF QUESTIONNAIRES TO TRAPPERS
IN ALBERTA - L.B. KEITH
C. FISCHER JR.



ENFORCEMENT FIELD SERVICES

With increasing demands by recreational and commercial users the need for monitoring field activities is rising accordingly. During the 1972-73 fiscal year the law enforcement division was involved in a variety of activities to meet the demand for field services. In relation to law enforcement activities there was a rise of 5.5 per cent in the number of fisheries and wildlife cases processed. In addition, some fifty-six miscellaneous charges were disposed of by Fish and Wildlife personnel. Infraction levels during the early part of the season were well below previous years' records; however, activity in the latter part of the season resulted in a large volume of violations being processed. Officers were generally of the opinion the adverse hunting conditions during the month of October brought about an unusual period of very limited hunter activity. The weather conditions appear to be a significant factor in the low level of violations processed early in the season. It is interesting to note that infractions of illegal possession of game is the most frequent offence encountered by officers. This is a relatively unusual occurrence since in most other jurisdictions as well as past Alberta records, loaded firearms in vehicles is the most common offence. It is hoped the trend will continue as it reflects in part the division's objective of orienting enforcement effort towards monitoring the more serious illegal activities.

The use of aircraft in monitoring night hunting was introduced during the year. Several patrols were conducted and results were encouraging. Plans are under way to expand the use of aircraft in night-hunting patrol work.

In respect to fishery activities, it is interesting to note the rise in violations for no angling licences. It is difficult to determine the reason for the frequency of this offence.

During the year several major pollution cases were finalized. Such prosecutions were secured for pollution of mountain trout streams by coal operators. The courts assessed penalties of $7,500; $2,500; and $2,000 which reflects a strong position adopted by the courts. It is encouraging to realize the support of the judiciary on these extremely important issues.

NUISANCE ANIMAL CONTROL ACTIVITIES

The Fish and Wildlife Division's involvement in nuisance animal control increased considerably. The division has become more involved due to greater demands by the general public and increases in populations of certain species of wildlife. A total of 1,617 complaints were received and investigated which required the removal or capture of 17,909 nuisance animals of various species. In addition to animal removal, divisional staff removed 597 beaver dams which were causing damage to agricultural land or road grades.

NUISANCE ANIMAL CONTROL 1972-73

Species	No. Complaints	No. Removed
BIRDS		
Waterfowl	1,065	12,405
Raptors	7	6
Others	1	—
UNGULATES		
Elk	14	–
Deer	7	—
Antelope	2	—
FUR-BEARING CARNIVORES		
Beaver	804	1,029
Muskrat	171	16,646
Skunk	84	81
Lynx	36	12
Bobcat	9	2
Badger	6	12
Fox	5	—
Mink	2	1
Raccoon	2	2
OTHERS		
Bear	404	358
Bats	—	147
Cougar	19	2
Porcupine	8	6
Others	9	6

*Waterfowl taken on damage permits.

TABLE 1

PROSECUTIONS

	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Investigations	3,669	4,226	4,455	4,565
Prosecutions	1,441	1,620	1,804	1,905
Convictions	1,387	1,517	1,654	1,789

(Figures include 50 dismissals, 66 withdrawals)

COMMON VIOLATION STRUCTURE

Hunting Infractions	1971-72	1972-73
Illegal possession of game	163 - 18.6%	198 - 20.1%
Loaded firearm in motor vehicle	176 - 20.1%	151 - 15.3%
Unlawfully hunting in closed season-area	98 - 11.2%	90 - 9.1%
Unlawfully hunting without authority	86 - 9.8%	83 - 8.4%
Fish Infractions	**1971-72**	**1972-73**
Unlawfully angling without authority	348 - 49.6%	440 - 50.7%
More than one rod and line	79 - 11.2%	115 - 13.2%
Angling in closed stream	52 - 7.4%	64 - 7.3%
Unlawfully using minnows for bait	13 - 1.8%	38 - 4.3%

REGIONAL SUMMARY OF PROSECUTIONS

	Wildlife	Fisheries	Total	Investigations*
Region 1 Lethbridge	95	145	240	209
Region 2 Calgary	102	86	188	653
Region 3 Red Deer	134	88	222	462
Region 4 Edson	216	215	431	230
Region 5 St. Paul	203	240	443	664
Region 6 Peace River	148	84	232	413
Headquarters (Edmonton)	26	7	33	29
R.C.M.Police	29	1	30	
	982	867	1,849	2,660

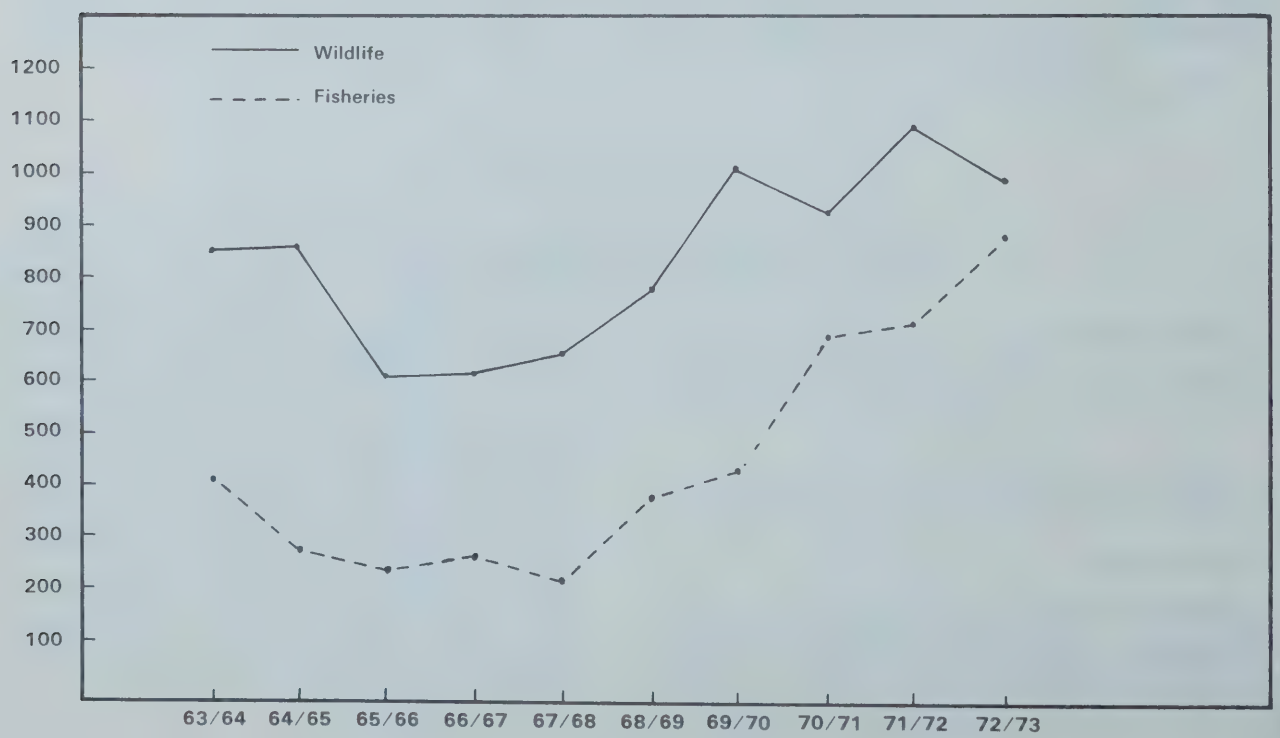
*Investigations cover incidents where an investigation was conducted but no court action resulted.

OTHER STATUTES

Aeronautics Act	1
Forest & Prairie Protection Act	5
Criminal Code of Canada	11
Game Export Act	1
Highway Traffic Act	1
Liquor Control Act	34
Petty Trespass Act	2
Small Vessels Regs.	1
	56

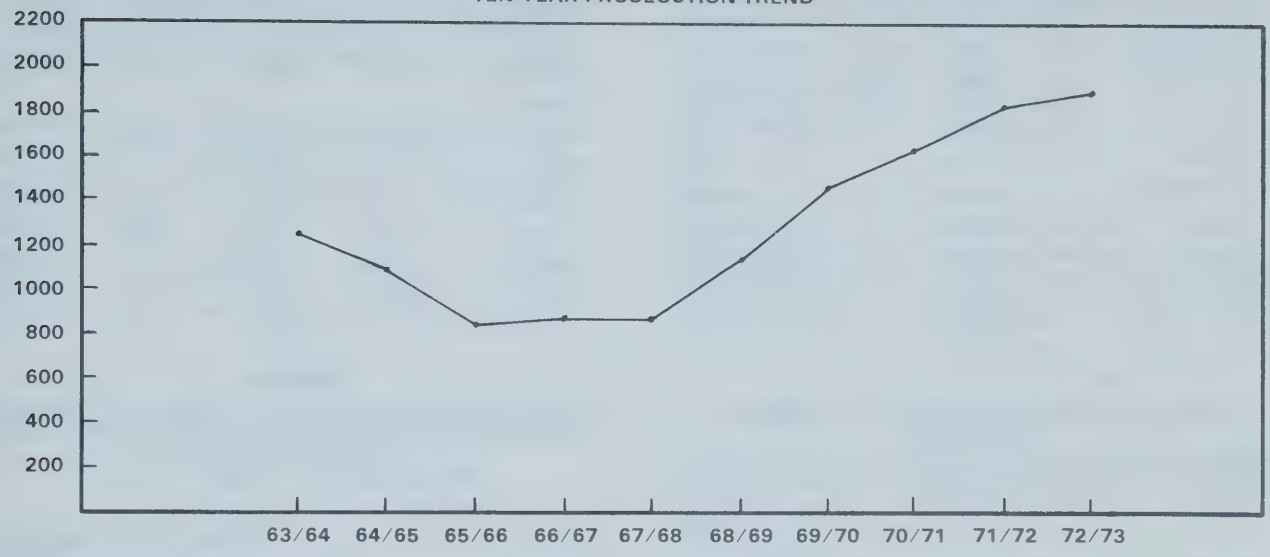
Total Reported Warnings issued for Fish and Wildlife Violations	1,345
Miscellaneous Complaints attended	5,850

DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS
PROVINCIAL PROSECUTIONS 1963-1973



DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND FORESTS

TEN-YEAR PROSECUTION TREND



FISHERIES BRANCH

FISH AND WILDLIFE DIVISION

The fiscal year of 1972 experienced a strong increase in demand for recreational fishing and an increased interest in private fish farming operations. In contrast to this increase a slight decrease in activity and production was evident in the commercial fishery and in commercial game fish farming operations. To maintain service to the increasing demand on the fisheries resource, the Fisheries Branch expanded its activities in the areas of aquatic habitat protection and fish culture during 1972.

THE RECREATIONAL FISHERY

Table 1 shows a comparison of recreational fisheries licence sales for the period from 1968 to 1972. An increase of 15,839 licences or 9.9 percent occurred during 1972. This increase was primarily in the resident and non-resident Canadian angling licence sales, however, a modest increase was also evident in non-resident non-Canadian angling licences. A significant increase was shown in the sales of trophy lake licences with an approximate doubling of sales from 1971 to 1972.

THE COMMERCIAL FISHERY

In 1972, a total of 115 lakes were available for commercial fishing. Of this total only 81 lakes were fished and produced a total catch of 4,858,281 pounds of fish. Table II gives the numbers of commercial fishing licences sold during the years 1968 to 1972. A slight drop in licence sales is evident from 1971 to 1972.

TABLE 1 — Recreational Fisheries Licence Sales

TYPE OF LICENCE	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Resident & Non-Resident Canadian	139,253	150,225	145,491	156,575	171,863
Seasonal Non-Resident Non-Canadian	1,621	701	723	727	911
Limited Non-Resident Non-Canadian	—	2,052	2,123	2,182	2,479
Sub Total	140,874	152,978	148,337	159,484	175,253
Spear Fishing Licence	244	231	328	417	438
Sturgeon Angling Licence	135	56	40	24	24
Zone Recreational Net Fishing Licence	103	37	62	9	58
Trophy Lake Licence	—	—	281*	404*	806*
Total	141,356	153,302	148,767	159,934	175,773

*Not included in Total as an anglers licence is required before a Trophy Lake Licence can be purchased.

TABLE II — Commercial Fishing Licence and Associated Operations Licence Sales

TYPE OF LICENCE	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
Zone Commercial	378	372	467	383	342
Zone Fishermen's	1219	1594	1396	1261	1201
Total	1597	1966	1863	1644	1543
Domestic	109	104	91	101	100
Fish Marketing	—	7	14	13	12

Table 111 shows a comparison of the total catch and species composition of the catch for the years 1968 to 1972. The 1972 fish production is down by 488,966 pounds or 9.1 percent from the 1971 level. The reduction in total catch resulted from the lack of animal food fish (tullibee) production in the Lac La Biche area.

TABLE III — Commercial Production of Fish in Alberta (Round Weight)

Species	1968-69	1969-70	1970-71	1971-72	1972-73
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Whitefish	2,063,057	2,450,022	2,339,934	2,183,384	2,208,021
Trout (Lake)	4,425	3,332	3,718	4,318	4,765
Walleye (pickerel)	283,035	200,257	136,124	171,899	148,008
Perch	155,127	224,477	279,488	136,945	39,674
Pike	1,431,879	1,004,104	760,653	673,630	611,826
Tullibee	6,996,094	6,189,233	2,902,960	1,451,707	1,373,770
Ling	722,074	389,899	214,795	416,531	187,651
Suckers	330,211	344,171	257,465	308,203	283,983
Goldeye	737	276	420	630	563
Coho Salmon (in number)	—	—	40	—	20
Total	11,986,639	10,805,771	6,895,597	5,347,247	4,858,281

Figure I shows the total annual fish production in Alberta for the past 20 years. The 1972 production was the lowest in the 20 year period. Although there was a 9.1 percent decrease in total fish production there was only a $2,849.00 or 0.4 percent decrease in the value of the catch to the fishermen as shown in Table IV. This differential in the percent decrease reflects the improving price for fish products being received by the fishermen.

TABLE IV — Value of the Commercial Fish Production In Alberta

	Weight	Value to Fishermen	Value as Marketed
	lbs.	$	$
Totals for 1968-69	11,986,639	932,940.89	1,466,369.67
Totals for 1969-70	10,805,771	1,017,162.89	1,727,743.78
Totals for 1970-71	6,895,597	826,268.91	1,587,718.45
Totals for 1971-72	5,347,247	729,931.28	1,411,450.98
Totals for 1972-73	4,858,281	727,082.70	1,476,091.09

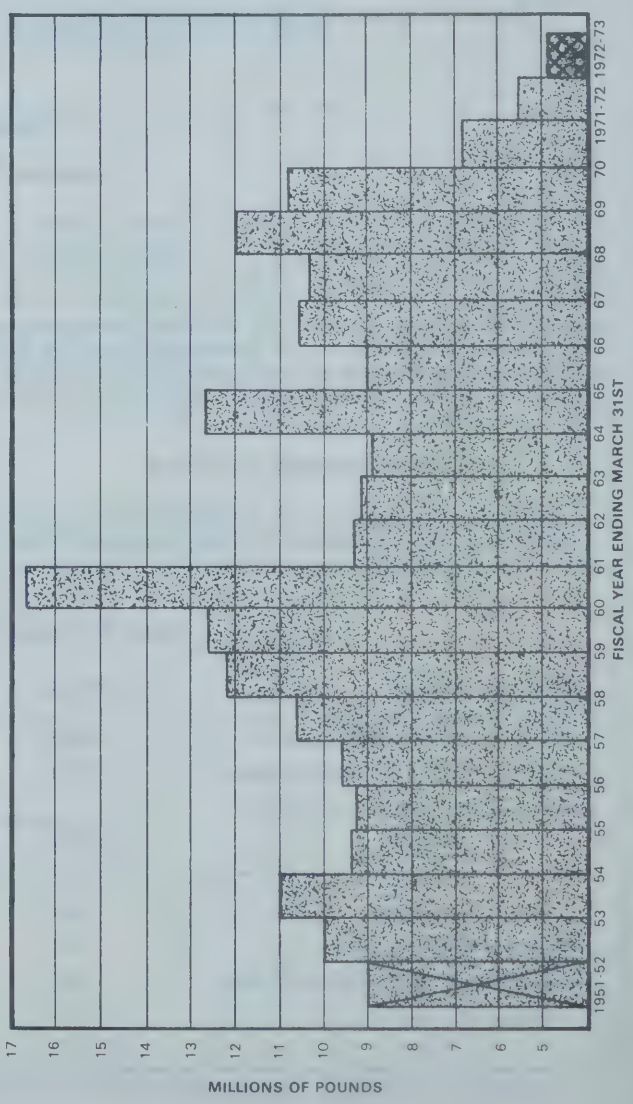
The marketed value also reflects the improved selling price with an increase in the market value for 1972 exceeding the 1971 value by $64,641.00 or 4.6 percent. Table V shows the market locations for the fish produced in Alberta.

TABLE V — Fish Exported from Alberta 1972-73

Species	U.S.A. Markets	Winnipeg Markets	Vancouver Markets	Total
	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.	lbs.
Whitefish	75,084	1,049,431	4,160	1,128,675
Walleye (pickerel)	935	13,069	1,050	15,054
Perch	—	32,762	—	32,762
Pike	3,479	212,959	100	216,538
Tullibee	2,312	196,650	4,860	203,822
Suckers	240	29,436	—	29,676
Total	82,050	1,534,307	10,170	1,626,527

FIGURE I

PRODUCTION OF COMMERCIAL FISH IN ALBERTA 1951 — 72



FISH FARMING

There was an increased interest in private game fish farming for personal recreation and enjoyment during 1972. Interest in commercial game fish farming showed a decline during the same period as reflected in the licence sales as shown in Table VI.

TABLE VI — Game Fish Farm Licence Sales

Year	Private	Commercial
1968-69	46	7
1969-70	58	7
1970-71	173	16
1971-72	354	28
1972-73	465	23

Commercial game fish farming has been involved primarily with supplying fish to private operators, and no significant amount of fish has been produced for use as human food.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT

The fisheries management program involves six regional biologists stationed in Lethbridge, Calgary, Red Deer, Edson, St. Paul and Peace River. The program during 1972 was aimed at considerable resource inventory, the management of the commercial fishery through a system of consultation with fishermen and other resource users, the evaluation of the effectiveness of the long standing alternate opened and closed fishing season management scheme for the east slope streams and the evaluation of deteriorating aquatic habitat.

A major survey to produce base line aquatic ecological and fish population data was carried out for the Department of the Environment in the Athabasca Tar Sands area by Fisheries Branch personnel. A report was completed and submitted by late 1972.

AQUATIC HABITAT PROTECTION

With ever increasing industrial development and the increased utilization of natural resources, it was necessary to reorient part of the Fisheries Branch from pollution work to an area of aquatic habitat protection. This new group, composed initially of one biologist and one technician will be responsible for reviewing plans of any activities which will affect the present quality of the aquatic habitat and make recommendations to minimize or eliminate such effects. With the increasing demand for fish for recreation and other purposes it has become necessary to maintain all the productive capacity of the surface waters of Alberta to produce fish. This is the primary objective of the aquatic habitat protection group.

FISH CULTURE

In 1972, a total of 184 lakes were stocked with a total of 5,171,479 fish and fish eggs of various species. Table VII shows the species and their numbers stocked during 1972.

The regional distribution of the stocked fish is shown in Table VIII.

Table IX gives the total production of fish from the Calgary Fish Hatchery and the Raven Rearing Station for the years 1968-1972.

TABLE VII — Species Composition and Numbers of Fish Stocked

Species	Number	Percent
Rainbow Trout	3,271,039	63.3
Cutthroat Trout	53,000	1.0
Eastern Brook Trout	374,490	7.2
Brown Trout	50,120	1.0
Kokanee	124,800	2.4
Walleye (fry)	250,000	4.8
Walleye (eyed eggs)	975,000	18.8
Perch	1,200	0.1
Coho Salmon	71,830	1.4
	5,171,479	100.0

TABLE VIII — Regional Distribution of Stocked Fish

	Number of Fish	Number of Lakes
Region I Lethbridge	1,459,103	27
Region II Calgary	715,605	40
Region III Red Deer	1,141,822	60
Region IV Edson	1,154,055	30
Region V St. Paul	175,950	13
Region VI Peace River	524,944	14

TABLE IX — Total Hatchery Production of Fish for the Years 1968-1972

1968	3,456,955
1969	3,639,995
1970	4,149,386
1971	4,739,217
1972	3,945,279

The construction of the Sam Livingston Fish Hatchery and Rearing Station in Calgary was completed and operations were initiated in late 1972. Production of fish for a portion of the 1973 stocking program will be produced in this new hatchery.

HUNTER TRAINING

STUDENTS

Total number of students who completed the Hunter Training Course 6,217

Total number of junior high schools participating in Hunter Training 63

Total number of senior high schools participating in Hunter Training 31

Other institutions participating in Hunter Training Olds College
Vermilion College
University of Alberta

Total number of students who attended Hunter Training Survival Camps 1,915

Total number of students who attended Nordegg Camp 838

Total number of students who attended Narrow Lake Camp 1,077

INSTRUCTORS

Total number of instructors who completed the Hunter Training Program	625

LOCATIONS:

Alix	7
Banff	1
Black Diamond	20
Bow Island	12
Calgary	117
Cardston	5
Claresholm	7
Crossfield	4
Delburne	3
Devon	11
Drayton Valley	13
Drumheller	13
Fort McMurray	1
Fox Creek	7
Edmonton	210
Hanna	15
Hilda	8
Hinton	49
Lethbridge	10
Lloydminster	12
Medicine Hat	23
Peace River	16
Ponoka	13
Provost	9
Oyen	11
Red Deer	3
St. Albert	2
Strathmore	1
Vermilion	16
Vulcan	6